

Message Text

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ACTION AGRE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 STR-07 TRSE-00
OMB-01 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /041 W
-----010759 180614Z /11

R 171431Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7385
INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY
WARSAW, ATHENS, BONN AND VIENNA PASS AGATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, GE
SUBJ: U.S. AGRICULTURAL PLANNING AND MARKET DEVELOP-
MENT TEAM VISIT TO GDR MAY 9-13

REF: (A) FASTO 2 (NOTAL), (B) FASTO 14 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: TEAM COMPLETED MEETINGS AND VISITS AS
SCHEDULED. GDR RECEPTION, AS MEASURED BY RANK OF
OFFICIALS PARTICIPATING IN MEETINGS AND FORTHCOMING
PARTICIPATION IN DISCUSSIONS, MADE THIS A HIGHLY
SUCCESSFUL VISIT. EXCELLENT TONE SET AT AMBASSADOR'S
RECEPTION ATTENDED BY DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
ERWIN NEU, AS WELL AS IMPORTANT OFFICIALS FROM
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE, FROM ALL THREE TRADE
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ORGANIZATIONS WHICH DEAL WITH AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES,
AND FROM MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. FIRST OFFICIAL
U.S. VISIT TO 5,000 HECTARE COLLECTIVE FARM (LPG)
GAVE TEAM REVEALING INSIGHT INTO WORKINGS OF GDR
AGRICULTURAL SYSTEM AS WELL AS ANSWERS TO MANY QUESTIONS
CONCERNING CROP PRODUCTION, FEED UTILIZATION AND
RELATED MATTERS. KEY MEETING AT MINISTRY OF AGRI-

CULTURE COVERED DEVELOPMENTS IN GDR AGRICULTURE AND INITIAL EXPLORATION OF POSSIBLE AREAS FOR ENHANCED COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURAL FIELD. END SUMMARY.

2. INITIAL EVENT IN VISIT OF TEAM WAS AMBASSADOR'S RECEPTION, ATTENDED BY NEARLY ALL KEY OFFICIALS WHO WERE INVITED. THESE INCLUDED NEU, MUENCH AND WIEGELMANN OF MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE; FRIEDRICH OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE; GEYER AND ELM OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS; WOLF, WEINRICH AND BERGEMANN OF NAHRUNG; TRILLER OF GENUSSMITTEL; AND SCHWEITZER OF FRUCHTIMEX. AMERICAN VISITORS HELD USEFUL AND OPEN CONVERSATIONS WITH THESE IMPORTANT CONTACTS.

3. ON MAY 10, GDR PROVIDED BUS TO TRANSPORT GROUP TO WILHELM PIECK LPG (COLLECTIVE FARM) JUST TO THE EAST OF ZEITZ, SOME 35 KMS. SOUTH OF LEIPZIG. ALTHOUGH VETERINARY REGULATIONS PRECLUDED VISIT TO ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATIONS, GROUP HAD OPPORTUNITY DURING LUNCHEON HOSTED BY LPG TO ENGAGE IN EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION OF CROP-GROWING PRACTICES, FEED OPERATIONS, ORGANIZATION OF LPG AND FUTURE PLANS FOR RAISING LPG PRODUCTION. GROUP VISITED APPLE SORTING OPERATION, WHICH WAS INTERESTING, BUT QUITE DATED BY CURRENT U.S. STANDARDS. THEY ALSO VISITED LPG'S MEETING HOUSE, WHERE EXTENSIVE DISPLAY OF HISTORICAL EVENTS AND CHANGES IN AGRICULTURE OCCURRING DURING THE LAST 100 YEARS WAS OBSERVED. THE HIGH POINT UNCLASSIFIED

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OF THIS VISIT REVOLVED ABOUT THE FREE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ABOUT SUCH SUBJECTS AS USE OF FERTILIZER AND ANIMAL FEEDING METHODS. THESE DISCUSSIONS WITH INFORMED OFFICIALS LARGELY MET TEAM OBJECTIVES OF ANALYZING FUTURE GDR ANIMAL FEEDING PLANS AND FEED REQUIREMENTS.

4. AT MAY 11 MEETING AT MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, TOP OFFICIALS PRESENT WERE DR. NEU, DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE; MANFRED WOLF, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF NAHRUNG; AND GUENTER FRIEDRICH, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE. INITIAL PORTION OF MEETING DEVOTED TO EXPOSITION BY NEU ON DEVELOPMENTS IN GDR AGRICULTURE. AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSION REVOLVING ABOUT THIS TOPIC, DR. HARRISON INTRODUCED SUBJECT OF ENHANCED COOPERATION WITH GDR IN AGRICULTURAL FIELD. INTEREST OF TEAM IN LEARNING MORE OF THE JUNE AGRA FAIR WAS EXPLAINED AND POSSIBILITY OF SOME FUTURE U.S. PARTICIPATION BY FAS AND COOPERATOR GROUPS WAS DISCUSSED. DR. HARRISON EXPRESSED HOPE THAT VISITS OF GDR AGRICULTURAL EXPERTS COULD BE ARRANGED TO U.S. TO RECIPROCATATE FOR FINE RECEPTION. NEU WAS NONCOMMITTAL ABOUT THESE POINTS

AND SUGGESTED, AND HARRISON AGREED, THAT ANY SPECIFIC PROPOSALS DEVELOPED WOULD BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO GDR FOR CONSIDERATION. GDR SIDE RAISED CERTAIN POINTS OF DISSATISFACTION WHICH INCLUDED LACK OF MFN, DESIRE TO SHIP GREATER SHARE OF GRAIN FROM U.S. ON GDR SHIPS (THEY DID NOT ELABORATE ON THIS POINT), AS WELL AS COMPLAINTS ABOUT DETERIORATION IN THE QUALITY OF GRAIN AND SOYBEAN MEAL RECEIVED FROM THE U.S. THESE WERE SIMILAR TO THOSE REPORTED IN REF. B IN STATE SECRETARY

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R 171431Z MAY 78
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INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW
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BEIL'S MAY 10 MEETING WITH ACTING SECRETARY FOREMAN.
(COMPLETE MEMORANDUM OF MAY 11 MEETING AT MINISTRY OF
AGRICULTURE WILL BE SUBMITTED BY AIRGRAM.)

5. COMMENT: VISIT HAS GENERATED MOMENTUM IN FORWARD
PROGRESS OF US-GDR RELATIONS IN AGRICULTURAL FIELD
AS MEASURED BY EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION, VISITS TO
AGRICULTURAL INSTALLATION, AND DISCUSSION OF AREAS
OF POTENTIAL COOPERATION. ADDED EXAMPLE IS ORAL
CONCURRENCE GIVEN TO AGATT BY MUENCH TO FILL AMBASSADOR'S
REQUEST TO VISIT DAIRY, ANIMAL FEEDING AND PERHAPS
FEED MILL IN LATE SPRING OR EARLY SUMMER. ACTIVE
FOLLOWUP IN MARKET DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS WILL BE USEFUL
IN MAINTAINING MOMENTUM DEVELOPED IN AGRICULTURAL AREA.
TEAM CONSENSUS IS THAT CONSIDERABLE OPPORTUNITIES EXIST

OVER NEXT FIVE TO TEN YEAR PERIOD TO DEVELOP MARKETS
FOR INCREASED FEED IMPORTS FOR DAIRY, BEEF AND PORK
PRODUCTION. BOLEN
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